Special initiative for women in industries

1747. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of large scale employment of women in industries, trade and other organizations, is there any special initiative for the safety, security and welfare of women employed;

(b) are there not representations and pressures for this purpose with urgency particularly during nights; and

(c) whether the existing provisions of law and practice are adequate for this purpose or a review is needed, if so, the details of action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Several law have been enacted to secure reasonable working conditions for women employed and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Buildings and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 etc. which provide *inter-alia,* creche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for the feeding children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace as well as safe working conditions.

(b) The proposal to amend the Factories Act, 1948 allowing women to work during the night shift in the factories etc. provided the employer makes adequate arrangements for their safety and security, is under consideration in the Parliament.

(c) The existing provisions of laws and practices are adequate for this purpose.

Child labour in Gujarat

1748. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that every 18th child in the State of Gujarat is either working or searching for work instead of going to school;

(b) whether Government is also aware that 4.28 per cent of total workers are child labourers;

(c) whether Government is also aware that 36 per cent of children are working in farm lands and subjected to various kinds of abuses and violence;

(b) if so, what Government are doing to protect such children and also ensuring their education; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. As per Census 2001, which is the most authentic source of data regarding number of working children, out of 1.13 crore children in the age group of 5—14 years in Gujarat, the number of economically active children is 4.85 lakhs, which is 4.27 per cent of the total number of children in this age group.

(b) As per Census 2001, population of total workers in Gujarat is 2.12 crores including 4.85 lakh of economically active children, which is 2.28 per cent of total workers. This includes children working as marginal workers for few hours in a day and also those working in non-hazardous occupations. The number of children working in hazardous occupation alone, State-wise is not maintained.

(c) Occupation-wise data of child labour in the State of Gujarat is not maintained.

(d) and (e) With a view to rehabilitate children withdrawn from work, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 9 districts of Gujarat, namely, Surat, Panchmahals, Bhuj, Banas Kantha, Dahod, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Rajkot. Under the NCLP Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put in special schools where they are provided education, nutrition, vocational training, stipend and regular health check-up so as to prepare them to join the mainstream education system.

World Toilet Summit, 2007

1749. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Toilet Summit, 2007 was inaugurated by former Presient of India at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 31st October, 2007, organized by Sulabh International Social Service Organization, in collaboration with the World Toilet Organisation with the support of the Indian Government;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion/outcome thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that according to the United Nations status report for South Asia, 1999, there are 733 million Indians who do not have access to basic sanitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Summit came out with a "Delhi Declaration", which states *inter alia,* to accelerate the progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on sanitation by 2015; Increase awareness and political will, prioritize sustainable sanitation, the importance of achieving MDG-goal 7 and also persuade nation leaders to take further measures; Prepare and plan activities as well as National roadmap for International Year of Sanitation 2008 in collaboration with all key stakeholders and important partners; Promote knowledge, exchange programmes on available sustainable sanitation technologies in all regions; Prioritize school sanitation health and hygiene programms; Facilitate a paradigm shift from disposal oriental system to reuse oriented sanitation system.